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from her quivering lips, and she fell into the arms of her brother, senseless and seemingly without life. She had remained in that state during the two days that, according to custom, they kept the body, the slightest breathing alone telling that she yet lived; and the reader may judge of the surprise of all at seeing her entering the barn. Her attendant had stolen to take a "peep at the fun," and at that precise moment awaking from her stupor, every thing was revealed to her at one instant's thought, so rising from her bed, she hastily huddled on some loose clothing, and appeared as we have described.

Her head was bending over the pale fixed features of her husband, and her long coal-black hair, which was dishevelled and unbound, floated along the white drapery that shrouded the body of the dead. A thick choking sob, with a low wail of bitter grief, occasionally burst from her lips, and at length rising her head, she flung back her dark hair and revealed her pale and marble features, agonized and full of deep distress: then she began a wild chaunt or keening in her native tongue, her body swaying to and fro "like a reed shaken by the wind," as if in harmony with her song of grief. The conclusion of each sentence was caught up by the keeners on each side, and prolonged with a deep and melancholy cadence. It ran as follows—

"Oh! husband of my heart! you have left me now in sorrow—I mourn beside thy cold form."—"My heart is breaking—it will soon cease to beat, and I'll be laid low."—"Beside my love I'll rest ere long, and the green grass will grow above my head."—"Strong was your arm in the fight, and yet your heart was soft—you would not harm a

child."—"Proud was I once to be your choice, but now you are cold and dead, ullah!"—"I'll never see thy smile again, to warm me like the summer noon-day sun."—"Your little child will cry out 'Father,' but you will not be there to stop his mouth with kisses."—"You have gone from me for ever. I care not for life, since you have ceased to live."—"Oh! husband of my soul! would I were laid beside thee, with the cold cold earth for my pillow."—"Oh! pulse of my heart! I will not live to see thy name forgotten: we will rest in the same deep silent grave, ullah."

There was something irresistibly touching in her overwhelming grief, and in the deep pathos of her melancholy chant, that gradually became lower and lower, till at length, with one wild, prolonged, quivering wail from the keeners, it entirely died away, and all again was silence. Then after a little commenced the buzz of voices, and at intervals the merry laugh—for such is the mercurial nature of the Irish feelings, that sadness rests on them but for a season. But the dance was not again resumed, neither was the bustle so loud as before, as "it wouldn't be decent afore the widow." She—poor bereaved one! sat like a statue, unmindful of all around her—life, passion, and feeling all concentrated in one wistful gaze upon the features of the silent dead: he was her all, and without him she felt that she was alone in the wide world—alone and in misery!

Bryan Murphy was decently interred on the following day, and his afflicted widow survived him but a very few months.

OSCAR.



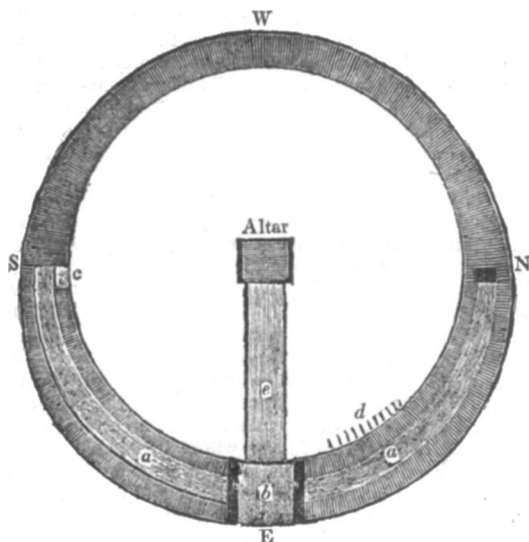
MARKET PLACE OF ATHLONE

Athlone is a considerable town, situated about seventy miles north by west from Dublin. It has been rendered rather an important station as commanding the passage of the Shannon, on which it is situated, and by means of which it communicates with the Grand Canal. It is partly in the county of Westmeath, and province of Leinster, and partly in the county of Roscommon, and province of Connaught; the divisions made by the Shannon, being united by a well-built bridge. The place was formerly rich in antiquities: but they were nearly all destroyed during the civil wars; the castle still remains, defended by numerous guns. We are informed by Archdall, that

an Abbey was founded here for Cistercian monks, under the invocation of St. Peter. Other writers give the dedication to St. Benedict, and say it was founded for monks of his order. In a table of the procurations of the church of Elphin, this is called the Monastery de Innocentiâ. In that part called the *English Town*, situate on the east coast of the Shannon, a monastery was founded for Conventual Franciscans by Cathal, or Charles Croibh Dearg O'Connor, Prince of Connaught, who, not living to finish the building, it was completed by Sir Henry Dillon. The country round Athlone is flat, and has few natural beauties to recommend it.

Athlone sends one member to Parliament. It gives title of Earl to the Dutch family of Ginckle, as a reward for the services performed by the General of that name in the year 1691. It is the station of a large military force and numerous staff. Lines have also been thrown up on the bank of the Shannon; but, though they might serve to protect the place in the event of any sudden popular commotion, they could oppose no effectual barrier to a regular force. There is a celebrated chalybeate spring in the vicinity.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AN ANCIENT BUILDING, SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A TEMPLE OF THE SUN, ON GREENAN MOUNTAIN, DONEGAL.



SKETCH PLAN OF GREENAN TEMPLE.

- a. The two passages in the wall.
- b. The entrance.
- c. Communication from the south passage into the area.
- d. The stairs leading to the top of the wall.
- e. Flagged passage to the altar.

Londonderry, December, 1634.

SIR—In the account of Burt Castle, No. 64, Vol. II. of your interesting miscellany, there is a brief allusion to a Temple of the Sun on Greenan mountain in that neighbourhood. The ingenious author of that very accurate account, was not aware, I am sure, of the existence of a very particular and minute description of that highly interesting remnant of antiquity, written by a very elegant scholar and gentleman of much antiquarian research, particularly in matters connected with Ireland, Colonel Blacker. The detail is given in a letter addressed to that very respected prelate, the Hon. Dr. Knox, the late bishop of this diocese. A few copies only were printed, for private circulation among the friends of the writer. One of these I was fortunate enough to procure; and considering it well suited to the purposes of your Journal, request your acceptance of it, and remain, your obedient servant,

G. H.

To the Editor of the Dublin Penny Journal.

My Lord—If your antiquarian research keeps pace with your taste in modern improvements, I know of none to whom I could with greater propriety address the following observations. But however this may be, your Lordship has an official claim to priority of information on the subject of any ecclesiastical remains discovered within the range of your diocese.

The epithet "ecclesiastical" may sound strange when applied to scenes of Pagan adoration; but your Lordship cannot but be aware that it is made use of by Giraldus

Cambrensis, when speaking of those round towers, which, together with the Arenæ of sun-worship (one of which I am about to describe), serve to establish, in my humble opinion, the Eastern origin and habits of Ireland's early inhabitants.

The mountain of Greenan, in the county of Donegal, rises from the southern shore of Lough Swilly, immediately in rear of the island of Inch, from which it is separated by a channel of no great breadth, and, in one part, passable at low water for cattle, &c. The ascent, for about a mile, is tolerably gradual, till, within a few hundred yards of the summit, it, as it were, starts up somewhat precipitously into a circular apex of many acres in extent, crowned by the pile which I have just mentioned my intention of attempting a description of.

That this spot was, in former days, consecrated to the purposes of sun-worship, is sufficiently evident from its name: Greenan, or, more correctly, Grian-an, signifying, literally, "the place of the sun," or "appertaining to the sun."

To the casual observer, the first appearance of the edifice is that of a truncated cairn of extraordinary dimensions; but, on a closer inspection, particularly since the clearing away of fallen stones, &c. which took place under my directions, in May last, it will be found a building, constructed with every attention to masonic regularity, both in design and workmanship. A circular wall, of considerable thickness, encloses an area of eighty-two feet in diameter. Judging from the number of stones which have fallen on every side, so as to form, in fact, a sloping glacis of ten or twelve feet broad all round it, this wall must have been of considerable height—probably from ten to twelve feet—but its thickness varies: that portion of it, extending from north to south, and embracing the western half of the circle, being but ten or eleven feet, whereas, in the corresponding, or eastern half, the thickness increases to sixteen or seventeen, particularly at the entrance. To discover this entrance was one of the first objects of my attention, and having directed a clearance to be made as nearly due east as possible, a passage was found, in breadth about four feet, flagged at the bottom with flat stones, equal in width to the opening itself, and fitted with great regularity: this passage was covered with flags of very large dimensions, which, however, we found fallen in; the main lintel, on the inner side, was formed of a single stone, six feet three inches in length, and averaging fourteen inches square in thickness. Within the wall, to the right and left of this entrance (though not communicating with it), are carried two curious passages, about two feet wide by four in height, neatly covered at top with flags, in the same manner as the entrance. These passages extend through half the circumference of the building, terminating at the northern and southern points: that running southward was found to communicate with the area, or interior of the place, by an aperture extremely disproportioned to the passage itself, being merely wide enough to permit the entrance of a boy; this aperture is due south, and the passage, as it approaches the eastern part of the building, becomes gradually narrow, being not more than six inches wide at its termination, adjoining the entrance. The approach to that gallery or passage, wending northward, appears to have been from above, there being no signs of an aperture communicating with the area, as in the case of the other passage just mentioned; whereas, on clearing away the fallen stones, to the northward of the main entrance within the building, we discovered a staircase, eighteen inches wide, leading from the level of the area to the top of the wall, very similar to those shown in the model of the Staig Fort, near Kenmare, to be seen in the museum of the Dublin Society. This passage extends to the northern point, but, differing from the other, it carries its breadth the entire way. On either side of the entrance passage, a few feet within, appears a square niche, or what masons would call a double reveal, of four inches deep: at first sight it seemed as if they had been the entrances to the two passages already mentioned, and which had been for some cause built up, but on examination this was found not to be the case; they were evidently formed at the original building of the wall, and I am inclined to think may have served for the